

WE WOMEN IN ENDOCRINOLOGY

<http://www.women-in-endo.org/>

Fall Newsletter, 2009

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Action Items

Membership for 2010: Due now for Jan 2010-Dec 2010

Mentor Award: Nominations due Jan 15, 2010

Young Investigator Awards: Apply by April 19, 2010

Dues for 2010

Full members, academic and industry	\$50.00
In training, post graduate (postdoctoral or clinical fellows):	\$15.00
Students (predoctoral or medical students):	no dues
Fill out enrollment form only	

As a 501(c)3 organization, all membership dues and donations to WE may be tax deductible. Tax ID # 52-2137017.

Thanks to our contributors for 2009

Mentor Award:	Pfizer
Gold Level (\$5,000):	Wyeth-Ayerst
	Amgen
	Novartis
Silver Level (\$2,500):	Genentech
Other:	Fat Disorders Research Society

Membership

Please be sure to renew for 2010. Annual dues are the financial mainstay of WE and allow us to continue our activities. The newly remodeled WE website features an easy way to pay your dues and make donations through a secure website. If you have any questions about your membership status, please feel free to contact Lisa Halvorson, Secretary-Treasurer of WE at lisa.halvorson@utsouthwestern.edu.

Annual Meeting

The 2009 WE Annual Dinner was held on June 10th at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel in the Renaissance Ballroom. Greetings were provided by the Endocrine Society President and President-Elect, Robert Carey and Robert Vigersky. The keynote speaker was Vivian Pinn, Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health, who discussed innovative NIH programs which fund studies into health issues that disproportionately affect women. WE Young Investigator Awards were presented to thirteen up-and-coming new researchers. Special note was made of the new Fat Disorders Research Society Award which supports research in the biology of adipose tissue. Recognition was also provided for the three individuals who received funding from WE to attend the Endocrine Society Trainee Day, as well as to four recipients of awards through the Australasian Women in Endocrinology organization.

Orla Conneely presented the 2009 WE Mentor Award to Bert O'Malley for his long-term support of women who have pursued successful academic careers in endocrinology. Dr. O'Malley is internationally recognized in the field of molecular endocrinology particularly in the area of steroid hormone and nuclear receptor action. Remarks included note of Dr. O'Malley's rare combination of impeccable personal character and integrity, as well as his unwavering loyalty to his trainees and colleagues, attributes that make him a born leader and exceptional mentor. Dr. O'Malley was lauded for providing an environment of academic excellence, infectious enthusiasm for research and learning, unwavering support for colleagues and an open generosity and thorough enjoyment of others' achievements...an environment where any scientist can succeed, be they male or female.

Mark your calendars! The Annual WE dinner meeting will be held on Saturday, June 19th, 2010 in the San Diego Marriott hotel. This event is open to all WE members and interested Endocrinologists, and offers ample opportunity for networking while enjoying a delicious dinner. It features an invited speaker of general interest and a summary of WE activities during the previous year. Recipients of the WE 2010 Mentor Award, and of the WE Young Investigator, Endocrine Society Trainee Day, and Australasian Branch of Women in Endocrinology Travel Grant Awards will also be recognized. More detailed information will be provided in the WE Spring Newsletter. All ENDO 2010 participants and attendees are invited to attend this event. Since seating is limited, advance registration and fee will be required. Please pre-register when registering for ENDO 2010.

Development

The Development Committee is the WE version of a fundraising committee. This committee is again anticipating a challenging year for due to the ongoing

financial crisis. Every bit of tax savings helps so WE encourages you to consider making a charitable contribution to WE as the end of the tax year approaches. Corporate donations, membership dues and donations from you, our members, support the work of WE. We are increasing the number of applications for corporate donations, but support from our members and individual donors remain extremely important.

Please consider making a donation above and beyond your regular membership dues. Donations can be made separately or at the time of membership renewal. The WE website is currently under revision to make donations even easier. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible (tax ID # 52-2137017). If you work for a company that matches charitable donations, the WE Secretary-Treasurer can work with you to secure the employer's matching funds. Donations can be directed to trainee development, to a targeted grant, or to unrestricted use in the areas of networking, development of informational programs, maintenance of the website and other critical functions.

2010 Mentor Award

Mentor Award nominations: due January 15, 2010!

The primary mission of WE is to promote the scientific advancement and recognition of female endocrinologists. With this goal, WE presents an annual Mentor Award. This award recognizes outstanding individuals who have encouraged and promoted female endocrinologists and who have been instrumental in changing institutional policy toward professional women. The WE Mentor Award is sponsored by a generous grant from Pfizer. Past recipients of the WE Mentor Award include Drs. Neena B. Schwartz, Peng Loh, Anita Payne, William F. Crowley, Jack Gorski, Anne Klibanski, Phyllis Wise, William Chin, Jo Anne Brasel, E. Chester ("Chip") Ridgway, Anna Steinberger, JoAnne Richards, and Mary Dallman. Dr. Bert O'Malley received the 2009 Mentor Award.

WE encourages all of you to consider nominating mentors (female or male) who have impacted your careers and have had a positive impact on the careers of female endocrinologists. *For more information about the nomination process, please see the WE website.* Applications must be received by January 15, 2010. The Mentor Award will be presented at the WE dinner at ENDO '10. *Nominations for the 2010 WE Mentor Award, and any questions about application preparation, should be directed to the Chair of the WE Awards Committee:*

Judith Turgeon, Ph.D.

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2010 Young Investigator Awards

Applications: due April 19, 2010!

WE has been pleased to provide awards each year to as many as 20 trainees in order to recognize outstanding abstracts accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society. These *WE Young Investigator Awards* are presented at the WE Annual Dinner. In addition, two named awards are available as well as an award sponsored by the Fat Disorders Research Society. *For information about the application process, please see the WE website.* Applications must be received by April 19, 2010.

Women in Endocrinology Awardees 2009

Janet McArthur Award for Excellence in Clinical Research – Pouneh Fazeli, Mass General Hospital

Neena Schwartz Award for Excellence in Basic Science – Nora Renthal, UT Southwestern

Fat Disorders Research Society Award – Aysegul Erman, McGill University, Canada

WE Young Investigator Awards

- **Vita Birzniece**, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Australia
- **Melissa Brayman**, UC San Diego
- **Nathan Charles**, University of Minnesota
- **Sarah Dickerson**, University of Texas at Austin
- **Mimi Kim**, National Institutes of Health
- **Amutha Selvamani**, Texas A&M
- **Emily Szmuiłowicz**, Northwestern University
- **Dan Tang**, Brigham & Women's Hospital
- **Varykina Thackray**, UC San Diego
- **Yewei Xing**, Medical College of Georgia

Endocrine Society Trainee Day Awards

- **Houda Benlhabib**, UT Southwestern
- **Allison Graziadei**, Brown University
- **Stacey Jamieson**, Prince Henry's Institute

Communications Committee

Visit the WE website on a regular basis for information about upcoming meetings, news about awardees, careers in science and medicine, and membership renewals! Please feel free to contact GERALYN LAMBERT MESSERLIAN gmesserl@wihri.org regarding ideas for improvements to the WE website or with information to include of relevance to our membership. Also, visit the careers page on the website for information about an autobiography of Dr. Neena Schwartz, a founding member of WE.

Australasian Women in Endocrinology

The Australasian Branch of Women in Endocrinology (AWE) is a sister organization of WE which has shown remarkable development over the past few years. Dr. Kathy Gatford, the outgoing AWE Director, has

provided WE with a report on the 10th annual meeting which was held in Adelaide in August. Several travel grant awards were presented with the generous sponsorship of DSL/Beckman Coulter and Novo Nordisk (see the WE website for more information). Similar travel awards are expected to be available in 2010 to assist AWE members with financial support to attend the ENDO 2010 meeting in San Diego. We congratulate WE Communications Committee member, Gail Risbrdger, who will succeed in the role of AWE Director.

Mentoring Committee

Research Supplements to Promote Re-Entry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers. The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), participating Institutes and Centers (ICs) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) have announced the availability of Research Supplements to Promote Re-Entry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers. This program provides administrative supplements to research grants to support individuals with high potential to re-enter an active research career after a qualifying interruption for family or other responsibilities. More information can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-191.html>. Additional career opportunities are being updated on the WE website and will be provided in subsequent WE newsletters.

Where Are They Now?



Cecilia C. Low Wang, MD, was in her first junior faculty year when she received the Women in Endocrinology abstract award in 2004. She is now a junior faculty at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, gearing up to submit an application for independent grant funding, and preparing

her tenure promotion portfolio. Her current research focuses on translational work examining the role of vitamin D in metabolism and vascular function. She also staffs general endocrine and intensive diabetes clinics at the Denver VA Medical Center, and attend on ward medicine service at the VA and the endocrinology consult service at the VA and at the University of Colorado Hospital. Dr. Wang commented that “*I received the WE award when I most needed it, since the funding made it possible for me to attend The Endocrine Society annual meeting that year, stay up to date on the latest science, and*

network with colleagues from other institutions. The WE award was especially important to me because it was from a respected non-profit organization and not associated with a pharmaceutical company.”



Tina Thethi, MD, MPH, was a first year faculty at Tulane University when she received the Janet McArthur Award for Excellence in clinical research in 2007. She is in her 3rd year as an Assistant Professor at the same institution and currently is studying diabetes mellitus, obesity and their complications,

especially chronic kidney disease. In 2008, she has received a Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) award at Tulane. She thinks that having being the recipient of the Janet W. McArthur award made her application stronger when she applied for the BIRCWH scholarship. These opportunities have allowed her to establish collaborations with those with expertise in various areas of medicine.

WE President's Corner

In this newsletter, I would like to call your attention to *four important issues*.

The *first* is to encourage you to join us at the Annual WE Dinner Meeting, to be held on Saturday, June 19th, 2010 in the San Diego Marriott Hotel. This is a great networking opportunity and a chance to catch up with friends!

The *second* is to request that you submit your dues payment at your earliest convenience. WE is heavily dependent upon your dues to fund its website, to support its annual dinner at the Endocrine Society meeting, and to develop programs to enhance career development of women in endocrinology. Women within the Endocrine Society have been notably successful in achieving leadership positions. WE has played an important role in this. *Please continue to support WE so that WE can continue to support you!!*

Third, I encourage you to nominate a deserving individual for the WE 2010 Mentor Award, due Jan 15, 2010. Details of how to submit nominations for this award were provided earlier in this newsletter.

Finally, I encourage all of you to visit our website! Please send us feedback and suggestions for content for our website. We are always open to new ideas for improvement!

It is an honor to represent you as President of WE. I want to take this opportunity to thank the hardworking committee members and chairs for all that they do for WE 'in their spare time' and to urge each of you to contact me with your ideas for additional ways that WE can support you and your trainees. I also encourage you to submit an on-line volunteer form for WE and for Endocrine Society activities. To continue to be effective in promoting women for roles in WE and in The Endocrine Society, WE needs to bring new faces to the forefront. The only way this can happen is for you to volunteer!

- Ursula Kaiser, President -